

News From East Timor

We have recently received the following information from East Timor:

1. The situation in the territory is becoming increasingly difficult due to frequent and widespread arrests and the restriction of people's movements.
2. In August, exactly one week after Agostinho Pereira (Mau-laku) was arrested at Dili airport, another youth called Lucas da Silva was picked up. This youth has frequently acted as a courier to and from East Timor. On the morning of 29 August 1992 he left his home dressed in his security guard uniform and arrived at the airport where he works to find a group of intelligence (Intel) officials in civilian dress waiting for him. He was arrested on the spot, taken away in a car and to date his whereabouts are unknown. Lucas is a relative of Cipinang political detainee, Fernando de Araujo.
3. In September (precise date unknown), after the Non-Aligned Summit in Jakarta, Arnaldo de Araujo, another relative of Fernando de Araujo's, was caught in East Lahane, Dili. A green beret unit of the Armed Forces surrounded his home where he was resting, then a group of Intel and police entered his home and took him from his bed. He was taken away blindfolded and to date his whereabouts are unknown.

4. The following event occurred on 5 October, 1992:

a) A soldier from Battalion 315 was killed in mysterious circumstances in the Kota Lama shop in front of the Baucau Club.

b) At the same place where this soldier died, a youth from Samalari named Alcino Freitas Belo was shot. Alcino is the nephew of Saturnino, currently imprisoned in the Cai-Sahe prison. He did not die from the gunshot wound immediately, but later in the Military Hospital as a result of punches and other inhumane physical abuse.

On the night of 5 October, another youth was shot dead in Baucau. He was Domingos Belo from Tirilolo district. It is clear that ABRI was responsible for all of the above deaths.

c) A further group of people were arrested on 5 October. The following are arrested persons whose names are known:

1. Guilherme
2. Alberto (Abeto) from Samalari district
3. Filomeno from Bercoli
4. 'Liu-Rai', Chief from Samalari, Manuel Marsal Segueira, together with his wife and 4 children
5. Mario Abel
6. Julio Joao de Deus
7. Maria Isabel and her younger sibling (name unknown)
8. Feliciano from Wailili, along with her children (number and names unknown)
9. 50 other people for whom names are not available

They are all being detained in the Flamboyant prison, Baucau, and have all been subjected to inhumane treatment at the hands of ABRI. The first three

individuals named on the above list were the most brutally treated, with their faces so badly beaten and bruised that they were unrecognisable.

5. The following event occurred on 6 October, 1992:

a) A second year Senior High School student (18 years old) died / was killed in Baucau as a result of being kicked, beaten and subjected to other such barbarous acts on the part of ABRI.

b) In the area of Bui-Lalu, Baucau, three elderly people and one youth were shot dead. They were murdered by Battalion 412 of ABRI while they were out hunting in the jungle.

The names of the four are:

1. Jose, old neighbourhood association (RT) chief from Venilale
2. Jose's nephew (name unknown)
3. Marcelo, also from Venilale
4. Pedro, from Venilale

6. Subsequent to the events of 5 and 6 October, missionaries working in Baucau and surrounding areas were given the following ultimatum: either leave East Timor or take on Indonesian citizenship. Their Residence Permits will not be extended, since they are suspected of having masterminded the above confrontations. Amongst these, Fr Locatelli SDB, Fr Joao de Deus SDB and Fr Baltazar are obliged to report daily to the Armed Forces or to the Baucau District Military Command.

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Information Section
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Translated: KS